

BETHANY LUTHERAN



Connections November 2021



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues to go well. We've had as many as 17 students attend! Upcoming lessons include discussing appreciation for military veterans, making cards for the veterans, and the Calming of the Storm. In late November, we'll begin practice for the Christmas program. This year's program will look different than in past years due to Covid restrictions. The plan is for it to be a max of 10 minutes and be only spoken word without any singing. Diane Huebner will be directing the program as in past years. Thank you, Diane!

As a reminder, as per church policy, all aged 3 and over are required to wear masks while inside church. Please be sure to send a mask with your child. As always, children are welcome to bring a friend to Sunday School.

CONFIRMATION

We are blessed to have six fantastic, intelligent confirmation students this year. They are Emalee Bohnert, Russell Dillin, Landry Flint, Harley Madsen, Yvonne Rotzoll, and Preston Young. We are learning (myself included) how to live as Lutherans. Wearing masks and social distancing precautions are being followed. We are gathering every Wednesday 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

REALITIES OF YOUTH MINISTRY

A leading researcher of youth ministry, sociologist Christian Smith, after extensive interviews with thousands of parents and young adults repeatedly over the last 18 years, has discovered the main reason parents raise their children in the faith is that it'll be good for them in this world - children will be happier and make better choices.

In the past, religion was a more collective, community-based experience. It was something people shared in common and it had a more social dynamic to it. The community promoted religion, so the parents had less of a burden to promote it. That's gone away.

Religion has been redefined. It's become an individualistic thing that may or may not be part of one's personal identity, along with other features like your career or sexual orientation or your hobbies. You can choose faith - or not.

Congregations are not seen as bodies of people who embody some alternative or renewed way of living. Congregations are resources. If congregations want to be able to connect with parents where they are and lead them to somewhere else, they need to think about which resources parents want.

Christian Smith found that most parents prefer indirect methods of religious transmission. Not so much "sit your kid down and lecture them about the faith," but instead "show them by osmosis and they'll kind of pick it up along the way." Parents who are effective transmitters of their faith talk to their children about faith, modeling Christian values and behavior. Children watch and see - and learn.

- Dick Pirwitz

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Church at the Speed of Today

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It seems the speed of the world keeps getting faster and faster. Whether you're talking about the changes and advances in technology, the programs and activities that everyone is involved with, the impatience of drivers or customers, the rate of learning in schools, or nearly any other measure you consider. With all of this speeding up, what is Bethany doing to keep up?

Like society, Bethany is also undergoing tremendous changes. Whether brought on by the pandemic, necessity for worship service, or the needs to stay modern, Bethany continues to adapt to meet the demands and needs.

1. TV Screens used at Service – We have now had the TV screens at the front of the sanctuary for some time now. As members, including Jim Henry recently, have indicated, change comes with fears and trepidation. While we attempt to maintain the foundations of our church service, we also have to adapt to technological advances. By using the screens to project the words of service, and integrating the sound system and laptop computer, there is a new platform to help follow service and present visual content in a medium that nearly all people use in their daily lives.
2. Streaming Services -- Mostly due to COVID, but also providing a “live” service experience for those that cannot attend worship in person, streaming services continues. Anyone anywhere can watch our services from a multitude of devices. Nothing compares to a physical presence, but for times or persons that cannot come in-person, streaming allows homebound members to remain connected and up-to-date on the happenings at Bethany.

* Tablets purchased for member use -- For anyone that does not have a device, Bethany has purchased 3 (three) tablet devices. These devices can be borrowed and used. Whether it for watching our streaming services, to carry out personal tasks, or taken to share our services with home-bound seniors, or for Committee members to participate in virtual interviews with Pastoral candidates these devices are meant to keep people connected and involved.

3. Adaptations to services for COVID --

* Masks. Yes, that word everyone is growing to hate. Bethany continues to require masks for ALL visitors. Whether Sunday School, or Sunday Service, masks are still necessary to keep ALL visitors at Bethany safe. For those that can't yet get vaccinated (under 12 years of age), or those that are medically susceptible, the wearing of masks is a very Christian way to bear additional burden in order to protect those that are less fortunate. Bethany does have masks available for those that forget theirs.

* Communion in the pews -- Taking communion in our pews lessens the contact, and physical spreading of germs. We continue to use pre-packaged communion elements, as most Christian churches are also doing, intentionally lessening spread.

No doubt tomorrow will not look like today, and tomorrow's Bethany will not look like today's Bethany. As our world changes, so must our church. Change is inevitable. It can be scary, but yet it can be wonderful. Make it Wonderful.

- Brad Ellerman

October Council Highlights

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A letter of resignation was received from Audrey Scholl stepping down from the Endowment Committee due to health reasons.

Treasurers Report:

- Gary reported that he and the finance/properties committee are consulting with a CPA to ensure that the recent financial gifts received are handled and documented properly. Finance and Properties has set the October mission support as follows: La Crosse Synod/ELCA \$450.00; Lutheran Social Services \$75.00; Food Pantry \$125.00.

Old Business:

- Semi-annual meeting is October 24th to elect 2022 Bethany Leadership. The nominating committee will submit a ballot this week.
- Call committee members Tim Benson and Roger Dutzle reported that two names were brought to the committee. One candidate was interviewed and declined and the other did not return calls or emails. The search continues.
- Stewardship Committee will hold Trunk or Treat Community event October 31st. The committee is working on the Stewardship plan for the upcoming year.
- Covid precautions will continue. The conference dean reports that most congregations are following these guidelines to protect the most vulnerable in the congregations.
- A suggestion was made that the donations to our hat and mitten tree for this fall be given to the Afghan refugee resettlement project. There are still needed items for the resettlement project. Items may be brought to church.
- Pulpit Supply has been completed through the end of the year with the exception of two Sundays.

New Business:

- Pastors from Food for the Poor and Campus Ministries will be providing services in October. A motion was passed to give these organizations \$200.00 each as an offering from Bethany.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee asked that the council approve maintaining the pay for temporary office administrator, Brad Ellerman at the same rate Marie is being compensated. Motion approved.

Committee Reports (cont.)

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Faith Development submitted the financial report from Youth and Family Ministry coordinator Dick Pirwitz. They report that there is an average of 7-8 kids in Sunday School with several great teachers stepping up. The 2021-22 confirmation class has 6 students. Two 7th graders and four 8th graders. Dick Pirwitz continue to coordinate this class.

Properties/Finance reported they discussed the financial gifts being received and ensuring that they are handled transparently. Gary and Elley will be meeting with a CPA to ensure the line of credit payoff is properly recorded and reflected correctly in the books. The 2022 giving envelopes have been ordered. Gray Electric has repaired the sign lighting, replaced lighting ballasts in the pastor's office and are submitting quotes for replacing the lighting on the sanctuary cross. Fall clean up went very well and projects continue. Ed Rogers reported the continued concern of water issues in the basement. The cost of the landscaping/water mitigation should be included in the 2022 budget. There is concern regarding the sidewalk safety with the committee getting bids for repair. Bids for snowplowing were reviewed. Brian Bell was awarded the contract. The Finance/Properties and Executive Committees will hold a joint meeting in November to prepare the 2022 Annual Budget. All committees and departments are asked to **submit their budget requests by November 1st**.

Hospitality Committee reports that the September 12th Rally Day outdoor fellowship was well attended, and they continue to work with the Stewardship Committee for community events like Trunk or Treat.

Mission Committee reports that the food pantry is currently full of supplies.

Worship Committee reports a shortage of lay worship leaders. The committee will be looking for volunteers to light the Advent Wreath each week in Advent. They have set Christmas Eve Worship for one service only at 4:00 p.m. Mark Dahlke and Kathy Marose will be planning this service.

Call Committee Greetings from the Bethany Call Committee!

The Call Committee continues to work with the Synod as we move forward in the call process. The synod recently gave us two names of potential candidates. We had the opportunity to interview one of the candidates via a Zoom meeting. Everything seemed to go well and we were excited about setting up a second interview. Unfortunately, the candidate and their spouse decided Mauston would not be a good fit for them at this time. The second candidate we received information on did not reply back. While we are disappointed we look forward to the next opportunity. Pray with us for focus and support in Bethany's ongoing ministry as we continue to await our next Pastor.

Bethany Call Committee: Carol Purvis, Nikki Turner, R J Rogers, Roger Dutzle, Brad Ellerman, Nelson Brandt and Tim Benson

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Phyllis Held, the family of Joe Griffin, the family of Wilma Miller, Kathy Noe, Norma Miller, Cam Goetz, Louie Voltz, Jimmy Hoilien, the Dillin family, Mike King's father, all military service members, Afghani refugees, the people affected by the devastation of natural disasters, and first responders and health care workers who are weary from the persistent pandemic.

Please call the church office, 608-847-6690, if you know of someone who needs to be added to our prayer list or with any Pastoral Care needs/requests. This list is different than our prayer chain, see below.

Bethany's Prayer Chain Coordinator is Audrey Gierhart (847-4106).
If you have an urgent prayer request, call her to share the request.

BETHANY CARES

Do you know someone who has health concerns, is lonely or just needs a prayer? "Pocket" prayer shawls are in a basket in the entrance. Larger shawls or afghans hang on a rack in the entrance. If you want a prayer for these larger shawls, slips of paper with a prayer are hanging on a rack in a plastic folder. Help yourself. Share the blessing! – Mary Pirwitz

Result of Semi-Annual Meeting - October 24, 2021

A Unanimous ballot was passed approving the following nominees:

President Dick Pirwitz	Secretary Barb Hoilien	Finance & Property Cmte Tim Benson Ed Rogers	Mission Cmte Tammy Hanson	Worship Cmte RJ Rogers Karen Fritz
Faith Development Cmte (None)	Hospitality Cmte Pat Lutz Ruth Marose	Youth at Large Cmte Elizabeth Colwell	Nominating Cmte Wendy McGuire Sheri Benson	Auditing Cmte (None)
Plymouth Cemetery Board Cmte Tom Hagen	Endowment Fund Cmte Maynard Miller	Endowment Fund Cmte (to finish term of Resign.) (None)	Synod Delegates Kathy Marose Tammy Hanson	



Happy November birthday to....

Cathy Kidd	11/01
William Voltz Sr	11/01
Trent Grzenia	11/02
Robert Dallman	11/05
Mark Behling	11/05
Chad Schultz	11/05
Mitchell Gray	11/06
Finn Winter	11/06
Jim Dillin	11/08
Bryce Thomas	11/08
Celeste Coller	11/08
John Maki	11/09
Jim Miller	11/10
Abby Williams	11/10
Kari Field	11/11
Brielle Bohnert	11/12
Linda Dallman	11/12
Wallene Feldman	11/14
Meryle Henry	11/15
Brandon Luehman	11/17
Kashton Fenton	11/17
John Benson	11/18
Shaylee Hoffman	11/18
Gary Grefe	11/19
George Pierce	11/19
Jaden Steinke	11/20
Nicole Potter	11/20
Riley Luehman	11/20
Jacquie Puent	11/21



Happy November anniversary to...

Robert & Linda Dallman	11/01
Dan & Tammy Remington	11/05
Donald & Marge Hoffmann	11/09
Michael & Lorrie Schultz	11/11



Please know that the office does not have every member's information. Please contact the office with corrections and updates.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and help in keeping our records up to date!

608-847-6690

Financial Updates

BLC Line of Credit Balance PAID IN FULL!!!

Parking Lot: 0

Professional Services: 0

Repairs & Updates: 0

**PAID
IN FULL**

**Thank you for your
continued financial
support!**

Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
September 5, 2021	\$6,432.00	\$584.20	\$7,016.20
September 12, 2021	\$1,819.38	\$294.57	\$2,103.95
September 19, 2021	\$848.85	\$551.79	\$1,400.64
September 26, 2021	\$1,955.50	\$229.57	\$2,185.07

Gen Fund	September 2021 Actual	September YTD Actual	September 2021 Budget	September YTD Budget
Receipts	\$65,063.98	\$149,724.06	\$12,500.00	\$112,500.00
Disbursements	\$10,035.25	\$88,723.43	\$16,923.75	\$153,128.75

Church Office Hours

We at Bethany Lutheran Church, Mauston, seek to build unity by instilling hope through:

ENGAGING

all generations in the practices and teaching of Jesus,

WELCOMING

each other,

REACHING OUT

to our greater community.

The church office is open **Monday – Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Messages left on the church voicemail are only checked during office hours. For urgent messages and emergencies, contact Kathy Marose, council president, at 608-343-4381. If not immediately available, she will answer as soon as possible.

Has your contact information changed? Be sure to let us know!
(608) 847-6690
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